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Letter dated 8 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the bombings of civilian targets by the Sudanese air force issued on 5 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the bombings of civilian targets by the Sudanese air force issued on 5 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the recent announcement by the Sudanese President that he has ordered the cessation of aerial bombing of targets in south Sudan. The European Union calls on the Government of the Sudan to fulfil that commitment in full and to refrain from any such actions in the future. The European Union will continue to watch closely the fate of civilian populations in that area.

While reiterating its commitment to the renewed political dialogue, the European Union has called the attention of the authorities of the Sudan to the fact that respect for international humanitarian law is an essential sign of their willingness to create an atmosphere conducive to the successful continuation of that dialogue and their commitment to peace.

The European Union also calls upon the SPLM/A to comply with its responsibility fully to respect the rules and principles of international humanitarian law and to refrain from using civilian premises for military purposes.

The European Union appeals to both parties to decide on a comprehensive cessation of hostilities and to make substantial progress in the ongoing Intergovernmental Authority on Development peace process.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.